Albatross gives you more…

- Spend 3 nights in the Gallipoli region sensitively exploring the whole campaign from the moving memorials on Cape Helles to the barren hills and rugged landscape surrounding Lone Pine
- Gain a deeper insight into the life of the diggers from our specialist Turkish Battlefield Tour Guide
- Pay your respects as part of a private morning commemoration at ANZAC Cove and gain an insight into the Turkish story in an evening presentation by a Turkish Historian
- Visit ANZAC Cove, Beach Cemetery, Lone Pine, Shrapnel Valley, Walker’s Ridge, the Nek and the surrounding trenches, Kabatebe Museum and the Commonwealth and Turkish Memorials on Cape Helles
- Spend 2 nights in exotic Istanbul and visit the Blue Mosque, Sultanahmet Square, the Underground Cisterns, and Topkapi Palace
- Visit ancient Troy, explore the Grand Bazaar and enjoy Turkish tea at the historic Caferaga Medresesi
- 13 years experience operating Gallipoli Commemorative tours

The Albatross Difference

- Less time on coaches, average 110 kms travelled each day
- Maximum 30 passengers
- Over $600 value of extras already included - no hidden costs
- Guaranteed to depart with 7 or more passengers

DAY 1 ISTANBUL

You will be met at Istanbul airport and transferred to your hotel. This evening join your fellow travelling companions and Turkish Guide for a traditional Turkish kebab dinner in a local restaurant. (D)

Your Istanbul Hotel – Innova Sultanahmet Hotel. Located in the historical Sultanahmet district, this hotel boasts 74 air conditioned guest rooms, elegantly decorated with modern furniture and a location in the heart of Istanbul’s historical peninsula. There is also a panoramic roof terrace with beautiful views over the sea of Marmara. See www.innovasultanahmet.com

DAY 2 ISTANBUL

Straddling 2 continents – Europe and Asia – Istanbul dates back thousands of years and its grand monuments bear testament to ancient empires and the Byzantine and Ottoman eras. First stop of the day will be at the Byzantine Hippodrome, now known as Sultanahmet Square, to visit one of the world’s great religious sites - the magnificent Blue Mosque. The highlight of your day will be a tour of Topkapi Palace* (formerly the Sultan’s Palace), home to the treasures of the Ottoman Empire and visiting the fourth century Yerabatan underground cisterns which riddle the foundations of the city. Your tour of Istanbul would not be complete without the exotic experience of having Turkish tea at the Caferaga Medresesi (originally a 16th century Ottoman school of culture, paintings and ceramics). Here you will be able to sample varieties of Turkish coffee, traditional apple tea and, if you wish, try a ‘Shisha’ (waterpipe). Your evening is at leisure. (B)

*2 June departure will visit St Sophia as Topkapi Palace is closed on Tuesdays.

DAY 3 GALLIPOLI

Departing Istanbul we drive to the Gallipoli Peninsula, where our ‘Gallipoli Campaign’ begins. After time at leisure for lunch in Gelibolu (Gallipoli town) we journey to Cape Helles on the remote tip of the Gallipoli peninsula. Here, at the most south-westerly corner of Europe, is the British Commonwealth’s main monument to the whole Gallipoli campaign – the Helles Memorial.
All Australian & New Zealand units which fought on the peninsula between April and December 1915 are commemorated here. On the outside walls of the memorial, along with thousands of other Allied servicemen, are the names of hundreds of Australian and New Zealand infantrymen who died in battle on this, the Helles Front, and ‘have no known grave’. Theirs is a forgotten story of the ANZAC struggle at Gallipoli. From the heights of the spectacular Turkish Memorial – the Canakkale Martyrs Memorial – we view the mouth of the Straits of the Dardanelles, that great waterway which was the primary Allied objective of the Gallipoli campaign. Later we cross the Dardanelles to Canakkale town where we stay here for the next three nights allowing us to properly immerse ourselves into the conflict and tragedy that evolved almost 100 years ago. This evening we have invited a local historian to join us and give an interesting overview of the Gallipoli Campaign from the Turkish perspective. (B, D)

Your Canakkale Hotel – Truva Hotel. Recently fully refurbished and centrally located on the Canakkale town foreshore, the Truva Hotel has a large shady outside café terrace overlooking the narrows of the Dardanelles.

DAY 4 GALLIPOLI

Our Gallipoli Campaign continues today. The peninsula is filled with cemeteries, a war museum and many memorials to the tragic events of 1915. As you enter this almost barren land, you can still sense the war and heartache that once dominated the landscape, breaking the silent air. Our expert guides have handled numerous special ANZAC Day commemorative tours and worked closely with our team of War Historians. Their intimate background knowledge separates fact from fiction and provides numerous fascinating insights into the lifestyle and living conditions of the legendary ‘ANZAC Diggers’. Our first visits will be to Anzac Cove and Beach Cemetery – now home to one of Australia’s most legendary soldiers, Private John Simpson. We will then trace the steps of the ANZACs up into the rugged hills to visit the ANZAC Memorials at Lone Pine and Chunuk Bair. Amongst the numerous sights also visited will be Shrapnel Valley, Walker’s Ridge, the Nek and the surrounding trenches. Our last stop on the Gallipoli Peninsula will be the Kabatepe War Museum with its absorbing collection of war relics and memorabilia. We have included lunch at a nearby hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 GALLIPOLI

A special day has been planned. Departing early we will cross the Dardanelles and gather under the early morning sun for a private wreath laying ceremony to commemorate the tragic events of 25th April 1915. Each member of our small group will be welcome to say a few words and express their thoughts. It will be your own personal tribute. Maybe a simple ‘thanks’, a personal poem or a minute of silence. The choice is entirely yours. Mid morning we will return to our hotel for a late breakfast and then visit the nearby ruins of the ancient city of Troy, the site of the mythological battle Homer immortalised in his Iliad. Archaeologists have proved that there had been nine separate periods of settlement here dating back to 3,000 BC. Your afternoon is at leisure in Canakkale. (B, D)

DAY 6 ISTANBUL

Returning to Istanbul we visit the famous Grand Bazaar, a maze of 65 winding, covered streets and arguably the most famous ‘covered market’ in the world. In its 4,000 shops you will find Turkish carpets, glazed tiles and pottery, copper and brassware, leather clothes and many other treasures. Tonight we have included a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

Your Istanbul Hotel – Innova Sultanahmet Hotel

DAY 7 ISTANBUL

Sadly your tour finishes this morning after breakfast with a transfer to the airport. (B)